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LETTER DATED 14 FEBRUARY 1996 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BURUNDI TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the message addressed to you as President of the Security Council by His Excellency Sylvestre Ntibantungganya and His Excellency Antoine Nduwayo, respectively President and Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi, in connection with the crisis in our country.

The Government of Burundi would be grateful if you would have this message circulated to all Member States as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Terence NSANZE
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Letter dated 13 February 1996 from the President and the Prime Minister of the Republic of Burundi addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Government of the Republic of Burundi expresses its gratitude to you for your unceasing commitment to the people, State and Government of Burundi.

The Government supports the laudable efforts of the Security Council to promote a return to peace, security and national reconciliation in Burundi. The Government will continue to avail itself, notwithstanding the many pitfalls awaiting it, of the concern of the United Nations system for the people of Burundi with a view to emerging from the crisis.

We reiterate our gratitude for everything that the United Nations in general, and the Security Council in particular, has done and is continuing to do to restore confidence, security and peace for all the people of Burundi.

In recent months the Secretary-General of the United Nations has dispatched several emissaries to our country. Positions which require clarification and verification against today's realities in Burundi have been taken by some of these emissaries, while the Secretary-General speaks, to save the situation in Burundi, of military intervention.

The Government of Burundi, as you have had an opportunity to observe during your most recent visit to the country, has been engaged for three months in establishing a policy of dialogue so as to counter all the extremist and factional elements which are undermining attempts to restore confidence and peace in our country. The first stage was an open and very positive dialogue which took place in the Council of Ministers throughout December 1995 on the question of security. Further to that debate there has been a campaign to raise awareness of the return to confidence, security and peace, the first positive signs of which are apparent to any observer of good will. Thus the Government and the forces of law and order have succeeded in thwarting destabilizing intrigues on the part of certain political leaders during the most recent work stoppage, and the campaign to raise awareness of the return to peace is gradually reducing the room for political and military manoeuvre by fundamentalist political-military groups. This initiative must be maintained since it is likely to lead to the organization and conduct of national dialogue in conditions of calmness and security.

The United Nations and the rest of the international community should focus their assistance in more concrete terms on areas which are providing the people of Burundi as a whole with greater physical and moral comfort and which are encouraging all the people to pursue the dynamic of peace and national reconciliation.

To this end it is necessary:

(a) To continue to support the Convention of Government, an instrument of peace capable of bringing together all moderate forces in the collegial management of the country so as to counter effectively extremists of all stripes who are undermining peace and security in Burundi;

(b) To assist Burundi in identifying foreign lobbies which are supporting armed groups in the service of an ideology of physical extermination on an ethnic or political basis;

(c) To deploy all possible means to identify and destroy the radio station of hatred known as "Radio Democracy";

(d) To condemn all forms of fundamentalist and destabilizing rebellion, as well as all forms of fundamentalism;

(e) To encourage diplomatic initiatives intended to promote the role of the region and a future of peace, stability and development in the Great Lakes region as a whole, like those which led to the Cairo Summit;

(f) To grant assistance to displaced, repatriated and dispersed groups and support efforts at national reconciliation so that this problem may be definitively resolved;

(g) To help in the rehabilitation of the socio-economic infrastructure destroyed during the crisis,

(h) To provide the necessary support for the judiciary, territorial administration, the forces of law and order, reconstruction and stimulation of the national economy, etc.

The Government of Burundi calls on the international community to continue to support and assist the people of Burundi in the quest for a definitive and satisfactory solution, for all parties, in strict respect for its sovereignty and to the exclusion of any use of force.

May I thank you once again for the particular attention that you have devoted to Burundi and to the realistic solutions to its crisis.

(Signed) Sylvestre NTIBANTUNGGANYA
President of the Republic

(Signed) Antoine NDUWAYO
Prime Minister